

THE FIRST RECORD OF *PARADUBA METRIODES* (BETHUNE-BAKER) (LEPIDOPTERA: LYCAENIDAE) WITHIN AUSTRALIAN LIMITS

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Abstract

A single male of *Paraduba metriodes* (Bethune-Baker) was collected on Dauan Island, Torres Strait, Queensland. Illustrations are provided of the adult and the characteristic male valvae and aedeagus that separate *Paraduba* Bethune-Baker from *Nacaduba* Moore.

Introduction

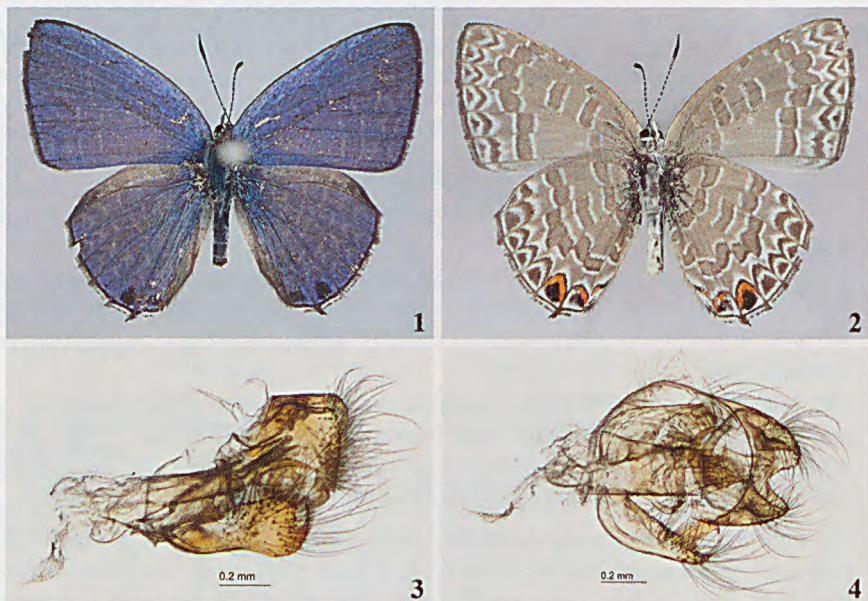
The lycaenid genus *Paraduba* Bethune-Baker has three species confined to mainland Papua New Guinea and Normanby Island (Parsons 1998). It is separated from *Nacaduba* Moore and other allied genera by the simple, clavate, densely-haired valvae and a strongly cornute aedeagus (Tite 1963).

On a recent trip to Dauan Island in early March 2013, a single male was collected and presumed at the time to be a male *Catopyrops ancyra* (Felder). However, subsequent closer examination showed that it was not *C. ancyra* but likely to be *Paraduba metriodes* (Bethune-Baker, 1911) (Figs 1-2). This was confirmed by examination of the genitalia (Figs 3-4). *Paraduba metriodes* is common and widespread in lowland Papua New Guinea (Parsons 1998, Chris Müller pers. comm.), with females less often encountered than males.

Discussion

The male of *P. metriodes* is easily confused with *C. ancyra* but the lack of a long hindwing tail separates it from that species. Placement within *Paraduba* is confirmed by the presence of densely haired valvae (Fig. 3) and the cornute aedeagus (Fig. 4). The forewing upperside is lilac-blue with very fine black margins. The hindwing upperside is similar but with 2 black spots on tornal margin and a short, stubby tail at the end of vein CuA₂. The underside is grey-brown with darker bands faintly edged white and the tornal spots edged orange medially. Eyes hirsute. Forewing length 13.4 mm; wingspan 24 mm.

The specimen was taken in an area of remnant vine thicket growing on a sand ridge close to the beach on the northern side of the island. It was engaged in apparent lekking behaviour around a plant of *Caesalpinia bonduc* (L.) (Caesalpinaceae) growing on a sand dune adjacent to the beach. Despite being disturbed on several occasions, it continually returned to resume its position on the plant. This behaviour suggests that the plant may be a host. Although the life history of *P. metriodes* is unknown, *Caesalpinia bonduc* is known to be a host for the closely related *Catopyrops ancyra* elsewhere in Torres Strait (Orr and Kitching 2010, S. Johnson pers. obs.) and for *C. florinda* (Butler) on mainland Australia (Braby 2000).



Figs 1-4. *Paraduba metriodes* (Bethune-Baker) from Dauan Island: (1-2) male upperside and underside. (3-4) Male genitalia: (3) lateral view of valva and aedeagus; (4) dorsal view including aedeagus.

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